

B1
conced

a controller that is disposed in the space at a side of the second storage location within the audio rack that is not occupied by the first and second storage locations; and

a connection unit, which makes an electrical connection between the first electrical equipment in the first storage location and the controller, and an electrical connection between the second electrical equipment in the second storage location and the controller,

wherein the controller controls the first and second electrical equipment via the connection unit.

B2

11. (New) An audio rack of a vehicle configured to receive a plurality of electrical equipments, comprising:

a first storage space of the audio rack having a first width and configured to receive a first electrical equipment having a width slightly less than the first width; and

a second storage space of the audio rack having a second width smaller than the first width and configured to receive a second electrical equipment having a width slightly less than the second width,

wherein one of the first and second storage spaces is disposed on the top of the other.

12. (New) An audio rack according to claim 11, further comprising a third storage space located adjacent to the second storage space in the width direction.

13. (New) An audio rack according to claim 12, further comprising:


FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

a controller disposed in the third storage space; and

a connection unit having a first electrical connector connecting between the first electrical equipment and the controller and a second electrical connector connecting between the second electrical equipment and the controller,

wherein the controller controls the first and second electrical equipments via the connection unit.

14. (New) An audio rack according to claim 13, wherein:

the first electrical connector is disposed within the first storage space and configured to electrically connect with the first electrical equipment when the first electrical equipment is inserted into the first storage space; and

the second electrical connector is disposed within the second storage space and configured to electrically connect with the second electrical equipment when the second electrical equipment is inserted into the second storage space.

15. (New) An audio rack according to claim 14, wherein:

the first storage space includes a first pair of guides disposed on an inner surface of the first storage space for slidably supporting the first electrical equipment within the first storage space and for guiding the insertion of the first electrical equipment into the first storage space so as to position the first electrical equipment in a desired position within the audio rack; and

the second storage space includes a second pair of guides disposed on an inner surface of the second storage space for slidably supporting the second electrical

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

equipment within the second storage space and for guiding the insertion of the second electrical equipment into the second storage space so as to position the second electrical equipment in a desired position within the audio rack.

16. (New) An audio rack according to claim 15, wherein a distance between one of the first pair of guides and the first electrical connector in the width direction is equal to a distance between one of the second pair of guides and the second electrical connector in the width direction.

17. (New) An audio rack according to claim 15, wherein a distance between one of the first pair of guides and the first electrical connector in the height direction is equal to a distance between one of the second pair of guides and the second electrical connector in the height direction.

18. (New) An audio rack according to claim 16, further comprising a spacer removably attachable to a top or side surface of the second electrical equipment, wherein:

the second electrical equipment having the spacer attached is insertable into the first storage space;

one of the first pair of guides slidably supporting one side of the second electrical equipment and the other of the first pair of guides slidably supporting one side of the spacer; and

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

the first electrical connector is disposed within the first storage space such that the first electrical connector electrically connects with the second electrical equipment when the second electrical equipment is inserted into the first storage space.

19. (New) An audio rack according to claim 16, further comprising a spacer removably attachable to a top or side surface of a third electrical equipment, wherein:

the third electrical equipment having the spacer attached is insertable into the first storage space;

one of the first pair of guides slidably supporting one side of the third electrical equipment and the other of the first pair of guides slidably supporting one side of the spacer; and

the first electrical connector is disposed within the first storage space such that the first electrical connector electrically connects with the third electrical equipment when the third electrical equipment is inserted into the first storage space.

20. (New) An audio rack according to claim 16, wherein each of the first and second pair of guides includes a groove configured to mate with a protrusion formed on each of the first and second electrical equipments.

21. (New) An audio rack according to claim 11, wherein each of the first and second storage spaces includes a pair of guides disposed on an inner surface of the first and second storage spaces for guiding the first and second electrical equipments into the

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

first and second storage spaces, respectively, so as to position the first and second electrical equipments in desired positions within the audio rack.

22. (New) An audio rack according to claim 11, wherein:

the first storage space has a first height configured to receive the first electrical equipment having a height slightly less than the first height; and

a second storage space has a second height larger than the first height and configured to receive a second electrical equipment having a height slightly less than the second height,

REMARKS

Applicants wish to express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representatives during the personal interview held on October 10, 2002. According to the proposed claim changes discussed during the interview, Applicants have presented new claims to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Thus, a favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 2-4, 6-9, and 11-22 are pending in this application, with claims 2 and 11 being independent claims. Claims 1, 5, and 10 have been cancelled. Claim 2 has been amended to place claims 2-4 and 6-9 in condition for allowance. Claims 11-22 have been newly added to more clearly recite features of the present invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4 and 6-9. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com